

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1-8 and 15-17 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1-4 and 15 being independent. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 15 and 17 have been amended herein.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-8 are allowed. These claims have not been amended herein, thus remaining in condition for allowance.

The Examiner suggested that Claims 15-19 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the originally-claimed invention. In particular, the new claims were directed to processing of data blocks for a plurality of main scanning operations of the recording head. Claims 15-19 were withdrawn from consideration. Without conceding this point, Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice. In addition, Claim 15 has been amended by deleting reference to dividing recording data into a plurality of data blocks. It is respectfully submitted that Claim 15, as well as dependent Claims 16 and 17, are no longer directed to a non-elected invention. Rejoinder and allowance of Claims 15-17 are requested.

This Amendment After Final Rejection is an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, and is believed to clearly place this application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicant earnestly believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in

condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment under 37 CFR 1.116 is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the restriction requirement set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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